Tuberculosis Awareness

Tuberculosis

- Is an infectious disease caused by the bacterium Mycobacterium Tuberculosis
- Although the disease can affect any site in your body, it most often affects your lungs.

Transmitted

- Tuberculosis (TB) is transmitted through the air in airborne “droplet nuclei.”
- It is not transmitted by inanimate objects or direct contact.
- When people with pulmonary TB cough, sneeze or speak, they produce tiny “droplet nuclei” that contain TB Bacteria.
- Infectious occurs when a susceptible person inhales the “droplet nuclei.”

Signs and Symptoms

- Productive and prolonged cough for more than 3 weeks
- Fever
- Chills
- Night Sweats
- Fatigue
- Decreased appetite and weight loss

AIRBORNE PRECAUTIONS: Visitors report to nurses station before entering the room.

- Private room with negative air pressure indicated. Door must remain closed.
- Respiratory protection must be worn by all persons entering room. (N95 respirators required for TB)
- Limit patient transport. Mask patient, if possible.
- Wash hands before and after patient contact.
- Follow Universal Precautions/Standard Precautions for all patients.
- Contact infection control for questions.

Preventive Control Measures

- Identify patients with active TB early.
- Initiate isolation using Airborne Precautions promtly. (Negative pressure rooms are located on 15C, NMC Portsmouth.
- Wear appropriate protective equipment. The N95 respirator is now required for healthcare providers.
- Instruct patient to cover mouth and nose with a tissue when sneezing and/or coughing.
- Initiate effective anti-TB treatment promptly. Emphasize to continue taking the medication until treatment is completed, usually a minimum of 6 months.
- *A PPD skin test is required once a year for all healthcare providers and military staff.

Communicable Disease Report (NAVHOSPPTSVA 6222/2A (REV 05/95))

- Uses this form to report the diseases listed, including TB (suspected or confirmed), to Preventive Medicine. Also report TB Cases to Infection Control.

To contact Preventive Medicine

953-5211/7463

E-mail access: G.EPI

FURTHER QUESTIONS

Infection Control 953-7799. Questions can also be addressed by using CHCS E-mail. Send your message to G. Infection Control.

Pager: Alyce Furlough 682-1293

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